

Chrono - Oct

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Imagery Analysis
SUBJECT : Joint Study of the Costs of Soviet
Military Construction Activities

1. This memorandum outlines a project aimed at improving our understanding of the extent and costs of Soviet military construction activity. Our proposal is a joint effort involving OIA and OSR resources which would proceed in two phases.

Phase I. Develop a detailed physical description of Soviet military construction activity along the Sino-Soviet border, specifying the work by year, and estimate the costs of these activities. This estimate will become part of the overall assessment of the costs of the Soviet buildup on the border which was requested by the National Intelligence Officer for General Purpose Forces as a contribution to an inter-agency intelligence memorandum on the Northeast Asian military balance.

Phase II. Drawing on the knowledge gained from the border analysis, undertake a research effort to develop a methodology for calculating the costs of all Soviet military construction activity. The methodology should be one which can be efficiently maintained and updated regularly to assure that the cost estimates are based on the latest information

2. By agreement between OSR and OIA [] the construction analyst in OSR's Military-Economic Analysis Center, who will be working on this project, will be assigned to the Office of Imagery Analysis, effective 12 November 1979. During this assignment [] will be slotted in an OSR position. A performance appraisal report will be prepared by OIA at the end of the assignment. All personnel actions will be reviewed by both offices prior to execution.

3. The attachment to this memorandum spells out the details of this joint study. We would like to complete Phase I in about five to six weeks and move directly into Phase II. [] and his supervisor, [] wish to meet with you or your representative as soon as possible to get the project started. A followup meeting in January can then be scheduled to assess the study's progress and plan for its completion.

R. M. HUFFSTUTLER
Director
Strategic Research

Attachment:
As stated